2. Additional flying training institute is being set up by the Government at Gondia, Maharashtra.

3. Age of pilots who can operate commercial flights has been increased from 60 to 61 years.

4. Engagement of retired/foreign pilots on contract basis.

5. Air India is in the process of recruiting additional pilots to fill up the vacancies through open advertisements in leading newspapers, campus recruitment from IGRUA at frequent intervals.

Permission for air travel facility to patients

2197. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some airlines including Indian Airlines do not encourage medical patients from flying in their planes;

(b) whether DGCA has no policy or plans to ensure that all airlines extend the maximum possible assistance to medical patients and old people;

(c) the details of private airlines which have shown a great amount of collousness and brutality in denying people a facility to travel when they are sick; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to inform, warm and caution all airlines that their should be no hurdles to sick or handicapped people from flying on any airlines they choose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (d) Indian Airlines provides all necessary assistance to facilitate air travel of all disabled passengers including medical patients. Further, in order to ensure that all airlines (including private airlines) make arrangements for facilitating the carriage of stretcher-borne passengers by air, the Director General of Civil Aviation has issued a Civil Aviation Requirement on 15.7.2005.